

STATENS STRÅLSKYDDSinSTITUT

Föreståndaren

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Dear Professor Lederberg,

You are no doubt aware of the intense discussion on nuclear power in Sweden just now. The new Government may or may not take drastic action to limit or even stop the nuclear power program. It is yet unclear whether such action will be taken before 1978 when the Parliament, according to previous plans, is supposed to take a decision on Sweden's long-term energy program.

At present, however, studies which have been initiated in order to give the Parliament sufficient background material are continued, pending contrary instructions. One of these studies is performed by a Parliamentary Committee, which has been asked to compare the environmental and health effects of the various energy sources, the main task being the comparison between nuclear and fossil fuels for power stations for electricity production.

The environmental and health effects of fossil fuel will be summarized in a background paper prepared by the Swedish Environmental Protection Board. The corresponding background document on nuclear power will be prepared by the Swedish National Institute of Radiation Protection and I have been requested to be in charge of its preparation.

There is a wide discrepancy between the account of nuclear power risks given by mass media and the account given in various official documents and a wide spectrum of dissenting views is continuously displayed. It will be up to the Institute to attempt to achieve a balanced summary of the present knowledge. This is obviously difficult since different groups will have different views on what is balanced. If we succeed, we may expect criticism from both proponents and opponents of nuclear power, although this may not necessarily be the proof of success.

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In this criticism, it is also likely that we shall be accused of hiding facts which point in one or the other direction. In order to prevent such possible accusations, I am writing to a number of persons altogether representative of all opinions, including those which, as far as I can judge, are unbiased. I am asking each one to help us in our task, by writing a short summary (say, one half to two pages) of what would seem to be the main problems as regards health effects and environmental effects of nuclear power. The summary might be headed: "Some reflections on the environmental and health effects of nuclear power from thes point of view", inserting whatever labelling of the author he feels appropriate (e.g. biologist, public health administrator or nuclear opponent).

If you agree to assist us, the Institute will try to compensate part of your efforts by the token sum of \$ 100, which is small enough to eliminate any belief that we buy your opinion.

I shall have no difficulties in understanding a negative answer to this request. On the other hand, if you have some firm opinion on this subject, this is an opportunity to express it and thereby influence the Swedish decisions which may have some consequences also in other countries.

We are working under pressure of time and in order to be able to make good use of your contribution (which will influence our own drafting and which might be appended to our background paper), we need to have it not later than 15 November.

I hope that this request will not cause an undue disturbance of your peace of mind or put you in any embarrassing situation. If you have any hesitation, just forget this letter.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bo Lindell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bo Lindell